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TECHNICAL COOPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AS A MODALITY IN THE FORMULATION, PREPARATION, EXECUTION AND EVALUATION OF THE PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED BY THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND OTHER BODIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM IN THE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND RELATED FIELDS

Report of the Secretary-General

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The present report responds to Economic and Social Council decision 1992/205. It presents an overview of various resolutions and decisions on technical cooperation among developing countries and describes efforts to use technical cooperation among developing countries as a modality in the implementation of programmes and projects undertaken by the organizations of the United Nations system. It concludes with recommendations for making technical cooperation among developing countries a more viable option.

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INTRODUCTION

1. The relevance of technical cooperation among developing countries as a modality in the strengthening of national capabilities and building of collective self-reliance was given special impetus in 1978, when the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries was adopted. 1/ Since then, the continued validity of the Plan has been repeatedly reaffirmed in various forms, most recently at the forty-fourth session of the General Assembly (resolution 44/223 of 22 December 1989) and in the South Commission report entitled The Challenge to the South. 2/ The Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) highlighted the issue when it designated technical cooperation among developing countries as a priority area for capacity-building in the Fifth Programming Cycle (decision 90/34 of 23 June 1990). All this has advanced the need for accelerated and expanded use of technical cooperation among developing countries as a modality in the implementation of programmes and projects.

2. Activities in technical cooperation among developing countries undertaken by the agencies of the United Nations system are generally of two types: promotional or operational. 3/ To facilitate a clear understanding of what constitutes such activities, four main features have been identified:

(a) Technical cooperation between two or more developing countries on an institution-to-institution basis in the public or private sectors;

(b) Sharing of expertise, experience, know-how and facilities;

(c) Activities managed and implemented by Governments and/or institutions of developing countries;

(d) Arranging the finance of cooperation by participating developing countries.

I. BACKGROUND

3. In resolutions since 1974 the General Assembly has maintained that the ultimate goal of technical cooperation among developing countries is national and collective self-reliance by developing countries. The Buenos Aires Plan of Action points out that technical cooperation among developing countries is a multidimensional process, neither an end in itself nor a substitute for technical cooperation with developed countries. It specifically states that "the entire United Nations development system must be permeated by the spirit of technical cooperation among developing countries and all its organizations should play a prominent role as promoters and catalysts". 4/ Thus, all actions at the global level within the United Nations development system were to give priority to the use of such technical cooperation and to strengthen and expand efforts to apply it widely at the national, subregional, regional and interregional levels.

4. In 1978, when the General Assembly urged subregional, regional and interregional organizations to implement the recommendations of the Plan of Action, a high-level meeting of representatives of all countries participating in the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) was formed. The high-level meeting was subsequently renamed the High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Cooperation Among Developing Countries, and it was entrusted with the overall intergovernmental review of technical cooperation among developing countries. 5/ Since then, at almost every session, the General Assembly has endorsed the validity and relevance of the recommendations and has underscored the importance of implementing the decisions of the High-level Committee. Technical cooperation among developing countries activities are to be fully integrated into the operational activities of the United Nations development system 6/ and should be a key element in the strategy of collective self-reliance and an essential instrument to promote changes contributing to a balanced and equitable process of global economic development.

5. Developing countries have primary responsibility for technical cooperation among themselves, with the developed countries and the United Nations development system assisting and supporting such activities. Financial assistance from other sources is to be regarded as complementary and not as a substitute for the countries' own resources. This would make external funding a catalyst rather than a source of direct support. The United Nations development system, as stressed in the Plan of Action, is to play a prominent role both as promoter and catalyst of technical cooperation among developing countries. This position has also been supported by the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) (A/40/656). Developing countries are to strengthen their technical cooperation among developing countries focal points and promote activities by focusing on priority sectors, such as food and agriculture; in concurrence, organizations of the United Nations development system, in accordance with the provision in General Assembly resolution 42/180, are to use the equipment, services, experts and consultants available in developing countries more vigorously and operationally and to continue to review their procurement practices and policies. Further, participating and executing agencies are to intensify efforts to achieve the full utilization of national institutions and build new capacities in those countries.

6. In summary, the General Assembly has contributed to a more structured institutionalization of technical cooperation among developing countries within the United Nations development system, has increasingly viewed technical cooperation among developing countries as an integral part of overall cooperation for development, and has recognized it as one of the most effective means of facilitating collective self-reliance.

II. APPLICATION OF THE MODALITY

7. Since the establishment of the High-level Committee, which meets biennially, seven progress reports have been prepared by it. They profile the advances made in implementing the tasks entrusted to the United Nations development system in promoting and implementing technical cooperation among

developing countries. Information for the reports was compiled through data collected, broadly, in four main areas:

(a) Support to promotional and operational technical cooperation among developing countries activities;

(b) Innovative approaches to technical cooperation among developing countries;

(c) Measures taken or planned by organizations to strengthen their supporting role in promoting technical cooperation among developing countries;

(d) Use of the capabilities of developing countries.

A brief analysis of the progress made in activities reported since 1980 by the United Nations development system is presented below.

8. The review of the progress reports highlights both how technical cooperation among developing countries is perceived by agencies within the United Nations development system and the types of exercises to which the technical cooperation among developing countries modality has been applied. In all the reports of the United Nations system, the need to intensify and expand technical cooperation among developing countries, as mandated by the Buenos Aires Plan of Action, was recognized by the agencies and the Governments. They acknowledged the need to establish focal points, supported by the necessary resources, where they do not exist. They may see technical cooperation among developing countries not as a separate phenomenon but as a key instrument in the whole development process. However, despite such comprehension and insight, progress in the application of the technical cooperation among developing countries modality, on the whole, has been rather slow and lingering.

9. In general, the modality has been promoted through exercises such as networking, meetings, seminars, study tours, symposia, workshops, institutional strengthening, training, information systems, feasibility studies, programming exercises, briefings for agency staff and coordination meetings. The modality has been more frequently applied in activities such as fellowship placements than in purchasing equipment or placing contracts in developing countries. In addition, agencies report that publications dealing with technical cooperation among developing countries, such as periodic bulletins, newsletters, handbooks, manuals and directories have adopted the modality.

A. Constraints

10. In 1989-1990 80 per cent of the agencies queried reported progress in technical cooperation among developing countries. However, various problems were identified in applying the technical cooperation among developing countries modality. In support of promotional and operational activities,

difficulties were encountered in quantifying and comparing the progress achieved in financial terms and in providing statistical and financial data. Since activities were often integral components of other technical assistance projects, difficulties were experienced in identifying and costing components. Problems also occurred in drawing a distinction between technical cooperation among developing countries and some types of regional and interregional projects that aimed at promoting exchanges of skills and experiences (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)) and between promotional and operational technical cooperation among developing countries activities.

11. The effectiveness of national focal points was limited because of lack of resources, functional vagueness and locations (World Health Organization (WHO)). Further, in view of the deficiencies in the institutional structure for technical cooperation among developing countries, a need to strengthen the position of focal points within the government and multilateral development agencies was widely recognized.

12. Problems in the recruitment of experts for technical cooperation among developing countries purposes were experienced owing to difficulties in identifying qualified and experienced personnel; lack of an in-country focal point or personnel database necessary for recruitment, such as a national recruitment service; or limited knowledge of the nature and scope of technical cooperation activities undertaken by the United Nations system (International Labour Organisation (ILO)). In some specialized areas, qualified experts were available only in few countries such as Brazil and India (International Telecommunication Union (ITU)).

13. Constraints to obtaining appropriate equipment from developing countries included the attitudes of government and international project personnel and inability on the part of the developing countries to provide equipment that met international competitive requirements (ILO, ITU). In the field of procurement, with highly specialized agencies, lack of a capacity in manufacturing high technology was a major obstacle to the participation of developing countries (International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), ITU, UNCTAD, United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)).

14. Most organizations identified internal procedural constraints that prevented them from substantiating and documenting progress in the application of technical cooperation among developing countries.

15. Constraints in implementation occurred owing to the lack of funds for the promotion of technical cooperation among developing countries activities and the need to rely solely on extrabudgetary funding sources (Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), Economic Commission for Latin America and the Pacific (ECLAC), World Food Council (WFC)).

16. There appears to have existed some confusion among organizations on the distinction between promotional and operational activities and between

economic cooperation among developing countries and technical cooperation among developing countries. This lack of distinction left scope for individual interpretations, resulting in unreliable data.

17. In view of the above experience, agencies within the United Nations development system have taken precise and distinct measures to ensure that specific operational guidelines are developed to facilitate the use of the technical cooperation among developing countries modality in programmes and projects. This calculated and conscious effort was propelled by the High-level Committee's recommendation in 1991 that the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) should review the guidelines on the implementation of the technical cooperation among developing countries modality by the United Nations system and monitor them on a regular basis. 7/

18. As the lead agency in promoting technical cooperation among developing countries, UNDP has defined it as one of the six priority areas in its Fifth Programme Cycle (1992-1996). Special programme resources (SPR) funds have been specially allocated for a wide variety of technical cooperation among developing countries promotional activities. Besides continuing to support the promotional activities covered during the past programming cycle (1987-1991), such as programming exercises on matching the needs and capacities of developing countries, provision of data and information, training seminars, workshops and study tours for national personnel on the technical cooperation among developing countries approach, methodology and opportunities and ad hoc activities of a promotional and operational nature, SPR will be used in the present cycle for heightened attention to activities and projects that promote networking and twinning arrangements; joint efforts that address common problems; direct focus on the transfer of specific skills; sustaining opportunities for launching projects through the matching of needs and capacities; and building and improving data and information on capacities in developing countries. Demonstration and pilot projects are to be undertaken to test new approaches and refine novel initiatives. Additionally, technical cooperation among developing countries has received increased attention on the agendas of senior management committees such as the Action Committee and the Policy Team of UNDP.

19. Other agencies in the United Nations development system have focused their activities on institution-building, networking institutions and information systems on a regional basis, the exchange of technical information and directories of national institutions, needs and capacities studies, and seminars, workshops and study tours for strengthening technical cooperation among developing countries. Some organizations have more explicit and lucid policies on using the modality. WHO, for instance, promoted collaboration between various institutions of developing countries for joint activities and sharing of knowledge and technical capacities. It participated in technical meetings of senior experts from developing countries and provided financial support; prepared a technical cooperation among developing countries directory, identified needs and potential support and provided technical support for the formulation of the technical cooperation among developing countries activities in health care.

20. The medium-term plan of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) (1992-1997) identifies seven elements of technical cooperation among developing countries strategy, provides essential information on approach and strategy in its handbook on technical cooperation among developing countries (1992) and publishes a periodic newsletter on the subject. UNIDO has a framework for all its programmes system-wide. Recently, its Industrial Development Board adopted a multipoint framework on economic cooperation among developing countries and technical cooperation among developing countries in the 1990s. 8/ To facilitate and encourage further the use of the technical cooperation among developing countries modality, some organizations have decentralized the use of related funds to their field offices (WHO, ILO, FAO) which has contributed to both speed and efficiency in the use of those funds.

21. On the whole, there is a concerted effort to move towards a higher level of management commitment to technical cooperation among developing countries and to articulate more explicitly the policy, strategy, programmes, funding and administrative arrangements for it in individual organizations. Technical cooperation among developing countries has been firmly placed on the agenda of governing bodies of agencies within the United Nations system. In response, some organizations have initiated a procedure of regular and methodical review of their technical cooperation among developing countries activities for institutional memory.

B. Extent of success

22. Agencies in the United Nations development system continue to attach major importance to technical cooperation among developing countries as a means of fostering the individual and collective self-reliance of developing countries. Clearly technical cooperation among developing countries needs to be seen as key to the whole development effort - not as an alternative but as a complement to the more conventional forms of development assistance. There is agreement that technical cooperation among developing countries as a modality has not been fully put to use. Although it has continued to make progress, it has advanced "not to the desired extent". 9/

III. RECOMMENDATIONS

23. A synopsis of the findings and recommendations identified during the course of this review is presented below.

24. All parties involved should:

(a) Inspire a change in attitude whereby technical cooperation among developing countries becomes widely appreciated and applied as an effective, less costly and relevant modality of cooperation;

(b) Simplify the gathering and accessing of data on capacities available in developing countries, while increasing coverage and currency;

(c) Use demonstration and pilot projects to test new approaches and refine novel initiatives;

(d) Strengthen the national technical cooperation among developing countries focal points to play a stronger role as a channel of information.

25. Governments should:

(a) Encourage and facilitate, as a preferred option, the use of technical cooperation among developing countries for programme and project implementation;

(b) Adopt explicitly stated national policies favourable to the use of technical cooperation among developing countries in national development plans;

(c) Strengthen or, where appropriate, establish national focal points for the promotion of technical cooperation among developing countries through sensitization, dissemination of information and promotional efforts;

(d) Identify and facilitate certain sectors where technical cooperation among developing countries could be more widely applied;

(e) Sensitize officials in governmental institutions, the private sectors, non-governmental organizations, etc. on the comparative advantages of using the technical cooperation among developing countries modality for the exchange of technology, expertise and experience - e.g., the relevant technical cooperation, its appropriateness, cost-efficiency etc;

(f) Strengthen and streamline the process of matching technical cooperation needs and capacities.

26. The United Nations development system should:

(a) Use the technical cooperation among developing countries modality in the implementation of the programmes and projects of the system by ensuring that the modality is given first consideration, both during the formulation and implementation process and through the systematic involvement of field offices during the project identification phase;

(b) Ensure more focused effort in using the capacities of developing countries, including appropriate technical and hardware components that pertain to the technical cooperation among developing countries modality, within the priority areas of the system;

(c) Enhance the role of agencies in the system in assisting Governments with the identification of needs and capacities for cooperation among developing countries in their areas of specialization;

(d) Improve and expand the information services provided by the technical cooperation among developing countries/Information Referral System, so that up-to-date information will be readily available on the capacities of institutions of developing countries;

(e) Encourage Governments, public and private institutions, and non-governmental organizations to consider the option of using the technical cooperation among developing countries modality in project implementation and to adopt policies favourable to the wider use of technical cooperation among developing countries;

(f) Assisting Governments in the preparation of projects and programmes for cooperation in applying the technical cooperation among developing countries modality regardless of the source of funds.

Notes

1/ See Report of the United Nations Conference on Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, Buenos Aires, 30 August-12 September 1978 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.78.II.A.11).

2/ London, Oxford University Press, 1990.

3/ Promotional activities are intended to strengthen the capacity of institutions in developing countries to engage in technical cooperation among developing countries or to prepare the foundation for launching operational activities using the modality. Operational activities involve the application of technical cooperation among developing countries by actual sharing and exchange of technical resources, capabilities and skills between two or more developing countries.

4/ See Report of the United Nations Conference on Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, Buenos Aires, 30 August-12 September 1978 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.78.II.A.11), chap. I, para. 45.

5/ See General Assembly resolution 35/202.

6/ See General Assembly resolution 40/196.

7/ See Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 39 (A/46/39) (decision 7/1).

8/ IDB.8, decision 5, of 5 July 1991.

9/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 39 (A/46/39), para. 23.

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ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW SUBSIDIARY BODIES OF THE COUNCIL

Proposed consolidated mandates of the new subsidiary bodies of the Council

Note by the Secretary-General

SUMMARY

The present document contains, for consideration by the Economic and Social Council, the proposed consolidated mandates of the new subsidiary bodies of the Council. It also contains the draft provisional agenda for the Commission on Science and Technology for Development and documentation for its first session, recommendations for the programme of work of the Committee on Natural Resources and the draft provisional agenda and documentation for the first session of the Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and on Energy for Development.

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INTRODUCTION

1. The Economic and Social Council, at its resumed organizational session for 1992, adopted decision 1992/218 entitled "Establishment of new subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council", by which the Council established a functional Commission on Science and Technology for Development.

2. By the same decision, the Council requested the Secretary-General to submit, for approval by the Council at its substantive session of 1992, the consolidated mandate of the Commission, in accordance with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 46/235, and a draft provisional agenda for the Commission.

3. The proposed consolidated mandate of the Commission has been derived on the basis of the decisions and recommendations contained in General Assembly resolutions 34/218, 41/183, 42/192, 44/14 and 46/235, as well as from the annex to resolution 7 (II) of the Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development, containing the terms of reference of the United Nations advisory body on science and technology for development. 1/

4. The items and reports in the draft provisional agenda have been proposed on the basis of General Assembly resolution 46/165, by which the Assembly endorsed the report of the former Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development on its eleventh session, 2/ as well as standing mandates such as on inter-agency coordination. The item on science and technology for sustainable development has been reworded in order to reflect the implications envisaged from the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.

5. By the same decision, the Council requested the Secretary-General to submit recommendations for the programme of work of the Committee on Natural Resources for consideration by the Council at its substantive session of 1992. The recommendations are contained in the present document.

6. In addition, by the same decision, the Council requested the Secretary-General to submit, for approval by the Council at its substantive session of 1992, the consolidated mandates of the Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and on Energy for Development, which are contained in the present document, as are the draft provisional agenda and documentation for the first session of the Committee.

I. COMMISSION ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT

A. Proposed mandates

7. The mandates applicable to the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, set out below, are derived from General Assembly resolutions 34/218, 41/183, 42/192, 44/14 and 46/235, as well as from the annex to resolution 7 (II) of the Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development, containing the terms of reference of the United Nations advisory body on science and technology for development:

The Commission shall assist the Economic and Social Council, inter alia, in the following functions:

(a) Promoting and catalysing international cooperation in the field of science and technology for development, in particular in developing countries, and in helping solve global scientific and technological problems;

(b) Formulating policy guidelines for the harmonization of policies of the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system in regard to scientific and technological activities, on the basis of the Vienna Programme of Action on Science and Technology for Development; 3/

(c) Promoting the improvement of linkages between organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, with a view to ensuring the coordinated implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action;

(d) Identifying priorities for activities within the Vienna Programme of Action with a view to facilitating operational planning at the national, subregional, regional, interregional and international levels;

(e) Monitoring the activities and programmes related to science and technology within the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system;

(f) Promoting the optimum mobilization of resources in order to enable the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to carry out the activities of the Vienna Programme of Action;

(g) Providing policy guidance and priorities for activities of the United Nations Fund for Science and Technology for Development within the framework of the Vienna Programme of Action;

(h) Making an early identification and assessment of new scientific and technological developments that may adversely affect the development process as well as those that may have specific and potential importance for that process and for strengthening the scientific and technological capacities of the developing countries;

(i) Choosing subjects of particular significance with major science and technology dimensions with a view to providing an assessment of technology and related policy analysis in order to facilitate the debate of the question in the General Assembly;

(j) Providing, at the request of the Economic and Social Council, such scientific and technical expert advice as may be necessary for the discharge of the mandate of the Council;

(k) Providing also, through the Economic and Social Council, expert advice to other intergovernmental bodies of the United Nations system.

B. Provisional agenda

1. Election of officers.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

3. Substantive theme:

   The contribution of technologies, including new and emerging ones, for the industrialization of developing countries and for the strengthening of regional and global integration processes, including proposals on ways and means of transferring such technologies and for their incorporation in the productive sector of those countries.*

   Documentation

   Report of the Secretary-General on the contribution of technologies, including new and emerging ones, for the industrialization of developing countries and for the strengthening of regional and global integration processes

4. Activities of the United Nations system:

   (a) Coordination and cooperation in science and technology within the United Nations system;

   Documentation

   Report of the Secretary-General on ways and means of improving the quality of coordination and cooperation in science and technology for development

   (b) Assessment of the impact of activities of the United Nations system related to the process of creating and strengthening endogenous capacity-building in science and technology in developing countries;

   Documentation

   Report of the Secretary-General on the enhancement of the impact of the activities of the United Nations system on the creation and strengthening of endogenous capacities in science and technology

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* The General Assembly, in its resolution 46/165, requested the Secretary-General, taking into account the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and on the basis of the discussion of the substantive theme, to submit to the Assembly, at its forty-eighth session, a comprehensive analytical report on ways and means of strengthening endogenous capacity-building in science and technology in the developing countries.

(c) Activities of the Department of Economic and Social Development in science and technology for development.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the Department of Economic and Social Development in science and technology for development

Report of the Meeting of High-level Experts on Science and Technology for Development (Bujumbura, 4-8 May 1992)

5. Ad hoc panels/workshops to examine specific issues of science and technology for development.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the organization of ad hoc panels/ workshops on specific issues of science and technology for development

6. Science and technology for sustainable development:

(a) Scientific and technological implications of sustainable development;

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General on the implications of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, including Agenda 21, for the work of the Commission

(b) Transfer and application of environmentally sound energy technologies.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the utilization and marketing of energy technologies, focusing on policy issues and options for the transfer and application of environmentally sound energy technologies

7. Financing science and technology for development, including activities of the United Nations Fund for Science and Technology for Development.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the organization of a coalition of resources to finance science and technology for development*

Report of the Secretary-General on funding arrangements for science and technology within the United Nations

8. Programme questions.

Documentation

Conference room paper on programme proposals for the biennium 1994-1995

9. Election of the Chairman and nomination of other officers for the second session of the Commission.

10. Provisional agenda and organization of work for the second session of the Commission.

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* The General Assembly, in its resolution 46/165, requested the Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development, at its twelfth session, or possible successor arrangements, after reviewing the report of the Secretary-General, to submit to the General Assembly, at its forty-eighth session, concrete proposals for organizing a more effective coalition of resources to meet the scientific and technological needs of developing countries.

II. COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

A. Draft provisional programme of work and documentation for the first session, 22 March-2 April 1993

1. Election of officers.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

3. Permanent sovereignty of mineral and water resources.

   Documentation

   Report of the Secretary-General on permanent sovereignty over natural resources as related to mineral and water resources (Economic and Social Council resolution 1991/88, para. 5)

4. New techniques, including remote sensing, for identifying, exploring for and assessing mineral and water resources.

   Documentation

   Report of the Secretary-General on efforts to strengthen the capabilities of developing countries in the application of remote-sensing techniques to mineral and water resources (Council resolution 1991/89, para. 5)

5. Disaster prevention and mitigation in developing and utilizing mineral and water resources.

   Documentation

   Oral report of the Secretary-General (Council decision 1991/306)

6. Outcome of the work of the Working Groups on mineral and water resources.

   Documentation

   Reports on the work of the Working Groups on mineral and water resources (General Assembly resolution 46/235)

7. Provisional agenda for the second session of the Committee on Natural Resources.

8. Adoption of the report of the Committee on Natural Resources on its first session.

B. Working Group on Water Resources: provisional agenda and documentation

1. Adoption of the programme of work and other organizational matters.

2. Activities of the United Nations system in the field of water resources.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General containing an overview of activities of the organizations of the United Nations system in the context of their basic mandates, and a summary of meetings, seminars and conferences on water held during the biennium 1991-1992 (Council resolution 1991/85, paras. 9 and 10)

3. Matters arising from the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the relevant provisions of Agenda 21 (Council resolution 1991/90, para. 5)

4. Issues concerning the sustainable development and use of water resources.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on human development issues that have a fundamental impact on the nature and direction of water resources policy, (Council resolution 1991/85, para. 9)

5. Cross-sectoral priority programmes for coordinated action by the United Nations system of organizations:

(a) Information management;

(b) Capacity-building for water resources management.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General containing proposals for system-wide action on integrated monitoring of key indicators on the state of the world's freshwaters, and a strategic approach to information collection, processing and dissemination in the United Nations system of organizations. Report of the Secretary-General containing proposals for system-wide action on capacity-building for water resources management

6. Provisional programme of work for the second session of the Working Group.

7. Adoption of the report of the Working Group.

C. Working Group on Mineral Resources: provisional agenda and documentation

1. Adoption of the programme of work and other organizational matters.

2. Flow of financial resources and technology transfer to developing countries to enable them to optimize the exploration and development of mineral resources.

   Documentation

   Report of the Secretary-General on ways and means of facilitating the flow of financial resources and transfer of technology to the developing countries, including conclusions and recommendations of meetings and seminars related to mineral resources and information on the possibility of establishing geological information systems (Council resolution 1991/87, paras. 2, 3 and 4)

3. Issues concerning the Round Table on Mining and Environment, held in Berlin in 1991, and implications of environment protection, conservation policies and strategies in the mineral sector.

   Documentation

   Report of the Secretary-General on the conclusions and recommendations of the Berlin Round Table on Mining and Environment: the impact of environment and conservation policies and regulations on the growth of the mining sector and special consideration of the results of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (Council resolution 1991/87, para. 4)

4. Small-scale mining activities in developing countries and national legislation regarding the activities of enterprises in this area.

   Documentation

   Report of the Secretary-General on recent positive achievements in small-scale mining activities in developing countries, with emphasis on national legislation, progress in technology transfer and international cooperation, focusing on fostering entrepreneurship and the integration of rural regions, and including information on the economic contribution of women (Council resolution 1991/87, para. 5)

5. United Nations system: priority programmes for coordinated action:

(a) Information management;

(b) Capacity-building for mineral sector management.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General proposing mechanisms to monitor and gather information on a regular basis on (a) issues concerning the flow of investments in the mineral sector of developing countries; (b) capacity-building in investment promotion

6. Provisional programme of work for the second session of the Working Group.

7. Adoption of the report of the Working Group.

D. Explanatory notes to the proposed programme of work and documentation

8. The proposed programme of work and documentation for the forthcoming session of the newly reorganized Committee on Natural Resources takes fully into account the mandates arising from the twelfth session of the Committee in its previous form. In addition, it proposes some new initiatives for the consideration of the Economic and Social Council in order to provide the new Committee with the material it needs to fulfil its mandate. The proposed organization of the work of the Committee is set out below.

1. Plenary session

9. In addition to items concerning the election of officers and adoption of the agenda of the Committee, it is proposed that issues related to permanent sovereignty, new techniques, including remote sensing, and disaster prevention and mitigation be dealt with in plenary session (agenda items 3, 4 and 5) as they are relevant to both mineral and water resources. The reports to be submitted are directly related to resolutions stemming from the twelfth session of the former Committee.

10. Following discussion of these items in plenary session, the Committee would break up into working groups in accordance with the new mandate from the General Assembly.

2. Working Group on Mineral Resources

11. Agenda item 2. The documentation for this item will be prepared pursuant to operative paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 of Council resolution 1991/87.

12. Agenda item 3. The documentation for this item will be prepared in response to operative paragraph 4 of the same resolution as it relates to the Berlin Round Table. The report will also comply with the provisions of operative paragraph 5 of Council resolution 1991/90.

13. Agenda item 4. The documentation will be prepared pursuant to operative paragraph 5 of Council resolution 1991/87.

14. Agenda item 5. This is a new item not directly derived from the previous session of the Committee, but well within its terms of reference. The objective is to seek guidelines from the Working Group on Mineral Resources for coordinating system-wide activities, and their integration in the form of reports to future sessions.

3. Working Group on Water Resources

15. Agenda item 2. The report to be prepared under this item would combine requests stemming from operative paragraphs 9 and 10 of Council resolution 1991/85, as they pertain to the summary of meetings, seminars and conferences, and to mandates of organizations. The report would aim to provide this information in the context of the activities of the organizations of the system.

16. Agenda item 3. The report would be prepared pursuant to operative paragraph 5 of Council resolution 1991/90. Accordingly, it would present to the Working Group the relevant provisions of Agenda 21.

17. Agenda item 4. The report would be submitted in response to operative paragraph 9 of Council resolution 1991/85. The report should deal with development issues that are at the basis of problems related to the implementation of the Mar del Plata Action Plan in the 1990s.

18. Agenda item 5. This is a new item not directly derived from the previous session of the Committee, but well within its terms of reference. The two reports will be designed to deal with issues requiring a coordinated approach by the organizations of the United Nations system, and seek the guidance of the Working Group for action in this regard.

E. Original terms of reference of the Committee on Natural Resources

19. The terms of reference of the Committee on Natural Resources, as established by the Economic and Social Council in resolution 1535 (XLIX) of 27 July 1970, included responsibilities for:

(a) Assistance to the Council in providing guidance in the programming and implementation of activities in the United Nations system for the development of [natural] resources, [particularly with regard to the development of water, energy and mineral resources, keeping in mind requirements for planning for the Second United Nations Development Decade] and for the protection of the human environment, and new technological developments in the field of [natural] resources;

(b) The establishment of guidelines for the provision and for the improvement and strengthening of advisory services to the Governments of Member States, to be made available at their request, for the planning, development and utilization of their [natural resources] within the framework of their overall development plans;

(c) [The substantive review and reformulation of the survey programme as originally planned;]

(d) The analysis of existing resolutions in the field of [natural] resources, with a view to recommending the consolidation and streamlining of their legislative basis;

(e) The selection and follow-up of priority questions concerning long-term problems and trends of world-wide significance in the field of [natural] resources;

(f) The examination of reports concerning operational and research activities in connection with [natural] resources, including reports from relevant panels and seminars already in the programme and from such as may develop;

(g) Appropriate attention to the problems of research promotion and of the exchange and dissemination of experience and information in the fields of development, utilization and conservation of [natural] resources;

(h) Recommendations to the Economic and Social Council and, through the Council, to Governments and also to other bodies, such as the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme, on appropriate priorities, programme emphasis and other relevant matters concerning the [exploration and exploitation of natural resources];

(i) Assistance to the Council and the Committee for Programme and Coordination in maintaining the necessary liaison between the activities in the field of [natural] resources of the regional economic commissions, the

specialized agencies, the International Atomic Energy Agency and other bodies doing relevant work, with a view to ensuring the utmost efficiency and cooperation;

(j) Such other relevant functions as the Council may assign to the Committee from time to time.

Note: Brackets placed around specific parts of the terms of reference are used to identify areas where changes will be proposed.

F. Proposed revised terms of reference for the new Committee on Natural Resources

20. The proposed revisions are based entirely on the terms of reference contained in the original mandate of the Committee, and are designed to take into account changes brought about by General Assembly resolution 46/235, as well as recent developments of particular significance. The proposed terms of reference are as follows:

(a) Assistance to the Council in providing guidance in the programming and implementation of activities in the United Nations system for the development of mineral and water resources, keeping in mind requirements for planning for the present and forthcoming United Nations Development Decades, and for the protection of the human environment and the sustainable development of mineral and water resources, and new technological developments in these fields;

(b) The establishment of guidelines for the provision and for the improvement and strengthening of advisory services to the Governments of Member States, to be made available at their request, for the planning, development and utilization of their mineral and water resources within the framework of their overall development plans;

(c) The substantive review of global surveys concerning mineral and water resources;*

(d) The analysis of existing resolutions in the field of mineral and water resources, with a view to recommending the consolidation and streamlining of their legislative basis;

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* The survey programme for the development of natural resources dates back to the 1960s, and was never implemented as proposed owing to a lack of funds. However, the Council may wish to consider the desirability of empowering the Committee to consider on a periodic basis general surveys of the situation concerning mineral and water resources, with a view to providing policy guidance.

(e) The selection and follow-up of priority questions concerning long-term problems and trends of world-wide significance in the field of mineral and water resources;

(f) The examination of reports concerning operational and research activities in connection with mineral and water resources, including reports from relevant panels and seminars already in the programme and from such as may develop;

(g) Appropriate attention to the problems of research promotion and of the exchange and dissemination of experience and information in the fields of development, utilization and conservation of mineral and water resources;

(h) Recommendations to the Economic and Social Council and, through the Council, to Governments and also to other bodies, such as the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme, on appropriate priorities, programme emphasis and other relevant matters concerning the sustainable development of mineral and water resources;

(i) Assistance to the Council and the Committee for Programme and Coordination in maintaining the necessary liaison between the activities in the field of mineral and water resources of the regional commissions, the specialized agencies, the International Atomic Energy Agency and other bodies doing relevant work, with a view to ensuring the utmost efficiency and cooperation;

(j) Such other relevant functions as the Council may assign to the Committee from time to time.

III. COMMITTEE ON NEW AND RENEWABLE SOURCES OF ENERGY AND ON ENERGY FOR DEVELOPMENT

A. Consolidated mandates

21. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 46/235, the Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and on Energy for Development will retain the current mandate of the Committee on the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy, including the consideration of its relation to environment and development. In addition, it will take over the present mandate of the Committee on Natural Resources pertaining to energy, as defined in Economic and Social Council resolution 1535 (XLIX) of 27 July 1970.

1. Mandate of the Committee on the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy

22. The General Assembly, in its resolution 37/250, section II, while reaffirming the significance and importance of the Nairobi Programme of Action for the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy, 4/

decided to establish an intergovernmental Committee on the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy, open to the participation of all States as full members. The Committee was to meet every two years in even years and it was to submit its reports and recommendations to the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council.

23. It was also decided in that resolution that the Committee should assist the General Assembly in, inter alia, the following functions:

(a) Recommending policy guidelines for different organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system in regard to new and renewable sources of energy, on the basis of the Nairobi Programme of Action;

(b) Formulating and recommending action-oriented plans and programmes for carrying out the Nairobi Programme of Action in accordance with the priorities identified in paragraphs 47 to 56 thereof;

(c) Keeping under review and modifying as may be necessary the priorities established in paragraphs 47 to 56 of the Nairobi Programme of Action;

(d) Reviewing and assessing trends and policy measures related to the development and utilization of new and renewable sources of energy, with a view to increasing their contributions to meeting future overall energy requirements;

(e) Promoting the mobilization of the resources required in the implementation of the Nairobi Programme of Action;

(f) Recommending guidelines to the financial organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system in the financing of the activities related to the implementation of the measures of the Nairobi Programme of Action, and helping to ensure the implementation of the measures listed in section III of the Programme relating to financial resources;

(g) Monitoring the implementation and helping to ensure coordination of the measures established in the Nairobi Programme of Action as well as of the activities of the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system in the field of new and renewable sources of energy;

(h) Being informed of, drawing upon and contributing to the work and expertise of governmental and intergovernmental institutions in the field of new and renewable sources of energy;

(i) Reviewing the activities of the United Nations system in the field of new and renewable sources of energy and the implementation of the Nairobi Programme of Action, and where necessary making recommendations on the adaptation of the Programme.

24. In section IV of the resolution, on mobilization of resources for new and renewable sources of energy, the General Assembly:

(a) Emphasized that the early implementation of the Nairobi Programme of Action required the mobilization of additional and adequate resources and that each country would continue to bear the main responsibility for the development of its new and renewable sources of energy, which would require vigorous measures for a fuller mobilization of its domestic financial and other resources;

(b) Called, to that end, for the urgent implementation of the measures for the mobilization of financial resources as enumerated in paragraphs 76 to 95 of the Nairobi Programme of Action, as well as in paragraphs 93, 94 and 96 to 102 of the report of the Interim Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy, 5/ and called upon all countries, particularly the developed countries and other countries in a position to do so, for the provision of additional and adequate financial resources to the relevant organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system;

(c) Stressed the significant role which consultative meetings, as called for in paragraph 91 of the Nairobi Programme of Action and paragraph 98 of the report of the Interim Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy, could play in the mobilization of additional financial resources for new and renewable sources of energy, and decided that they should be convened in this field, as required, by the appropriate entities in the United Nations system, with the participation of multilateral and bilateral donors and interested recipient countries, at the national, subregional, regional and global levels, within the framework of the Nairobi Programme of Action, taking into account national plans and priorities and operating on a non-discriminatory basis;

(d) Emphasized that such meetings should be consistent with existing procedures, for example, along the lines of the roundtables held by the United Nations Development Programme and the consultative groups convened by the World Bank, and reiterated the role which the United Nations system must continue to play at the national level through the resident coordinators of the operational activities for development of the United Nations system, at the request of the countries concerned, at the regional level through the regional commissions and at the global level, through the Director-General for Development and International Economic Cooperation, by the relevant organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system;

(e) Reaffirmed, in that context, that specific and additional resources should be directed through such channels as the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration, the long-term financial arrangements for the United Nations Financing System for Science and Technology for Development, the United Nations Development Programme Energy Account and others directly or indirectly involved, in accordance with national plans and priorities;

(f) Further emphasized the role which an energy affiliate for the development of energy resources of developing countries within the World Bank could play with a view to generating additional resources, and stressed the importance of the consideration of other complementary frameworks for the mobilization of financial resources to assure, on an urgent basis, the expenditures and investment needs of the developing countries, and called upon Member States to make appropriate efforts to that end in the relevant forums;

25. In section V of the resolution, on coordination within the United Nations system, the Assembly:

(a) Reiterated the call made in its resolution 36/193 for enhancing cooperation and coordination within the United Nations system in the field of new and renewable sources of energy;

(b) Reaffirmed the role of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Cooperation, within the framework of his mandate as defined by the General Assembly in its resolutions 32/197 of 20 December 1977 and 33/202 of 29 January 1979 and paragraph 63 of the Nairobi Programme of Action, in providing overall co-ordination in the field of new and renewable sources of energy within the United Nations system;

(c) Endorsed the recommendation of the Interim Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy regarding the establishment of an appropriate mechanism for coordination, and requested the Director-General for Development and International Economic Cooperation to convene an ad hoc inter-agency meeting in early 1983 in order to establish an ad hoc inter-agency group and to define its terms of reference;

(d) Requested the Secretary-General, taking into account the Nairobi Programme of Action, the conclusions and recommendations of the Interim Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and the provisions of the present resolution, to submit a report to the Committee on the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy at its first regular session, in 1983, which would contain, inter alia, practical proposals regarding:

(i) Guidelines for the relevant organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system on the preparation and convening of consultative meetings, bearing in mind the provisions of paragraph 4 of section IV above;

(ii) Ways and means of improving the effectiveness of inter-agency coordination through the Administrative Committee on Coordination in the field of new and renewable sources of energy;

(iii) Further ways and means of mobilizing financial sources for new and renewable sources of energy.

2. Mandate of the Committee on Natural Resources pertaining to energy resources

26. The Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 1535 (XLIX) of 27 July 1970, decided that the terms of reference of the Committee on Natural Resources should include, with due respect for the concept of the sovereignty of every nation, responsibilities for:

(a) Assistance to the Council in providing guidance in the programming and implementation of activities in the United Nations system for the development of natural resources, particularly with regard to the development of [water,] energy [and mineral resources,] keeping in mind requirements for planning for the Second United Nations Development Decade and for the protection of the human environment, and new technological developments in the field of energy [natural resources];

(b) The establishment of guidelines for the provision and for the improvement and strengthening of advisory services to the Governments of Member States, to be made available at their request, for the planning, development and utilization of their [natural] energy resources within the framework of their overall development plans;

(c) The substantive review and reformulation of the survey programme as originally planned; 6/

(d) The analysis of existing resolutions in the field of energy [natural resources], with a view to recommending the consolidation and streamlining of their legislative basis;

(e) The selection and follow-up of priority questions concerning long-term problems and trends of world-wide significance in the field of energy [natural resources];

(f) The examination of reports concerning operational and research activities in connection with energy [natural resources], including reports from relevant panels and seminars already in the programme and from such as may develop;

(g) Appropriate attention to the problems of research promotion and of the exchange and dissemination of experience and information in the fields of the development, utilization and conservation of energy [natural resources];

(h) Recommendations to the Economic and Social Council and, through the Council, to Governments and also to other bodies, such as the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme, on appropriate priorities, programme emphasis and other relevant matters concerning the exploration and exploitation of energy [natural resources];

(i) Assistance to the Council and the Committee for Programme and Coordination in maintaining the necessary liaison between the activities in the field of energy [natural resources] of the regional economic commissions, the specialized agencies, the International Atomic Energy Agency and other bodies doing relevant work, with a view to ensuring the utmost efficiency and cooperation;

(j) Such other relevant functions as the Council may assign to the Committee from time to time.

Note: Brackets placed around specific parts of the terms of reference are used to identify areas where changes will be proposed.

3. Expected mandates pertaining to energy, including new and renewable sources of energy, in relation to environment and sustainable development as defined in Agenda 21*

27. These mandates are drawn from document A/CONF.151/PC/WG.I/L.47, covering section II, chapter 1, of Agenda 21. Next to each subheading is indicated in parentheses the paragraph from which the mandate is taken:

(a) Promoting sustainable development: energy development, efficiency and consumption (para. 9 (a) to (l))

(i) To cooperate in identifying and developing energy sources to promote the availability of increased energy supplies, to support sustainable development efforts;

(ii) To cooperate in the development of appropriate methodologies for making integrated energy, environment and economic policy decisions while supporting efforts to carry out environmental impact assessments of decisions and projects. Planning and implementation of energy efficiency should, as much as possible, be adapted by countries;

(iii) To promote the transfer, development and use of improved energy-efficient technologies, including indigenous technologies, in all relevant sectors, giving special attention to renewable sources of energy and the rehabilitation and modernization of power systems, through capacity-building and management;

(iv) To study and develop economic instruments, which may play an important role in achieving structural changes and improved efficiency in the production and consumption of energy;

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* Following adoption of Agenda 21 by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, June 1992.

(v) To review current energy supply mixes to determine how the contribution of environmentally sound energy systems as a whole, particularly new and renewable energy sources, could be increased in an economically efficient manner, taking into account respective countries' unique characteristics, including measures that would ensure that new and renewable energy sources are not discriminated against in domestic energy markets;

(vi) To coordinate energy plans regionally and subregionally, and to study the feasibility of efficient distribution of energy from new and renewable energy sources;

(vii) To consider, with a view to increasing research, development and the introduction of environmentally sound energy systems, particularly for renewable energy sources, and to promote research and development;

(viii) To cooperate and to increase the availability of capacity, capabilities and relevant technologies in developing countries for utilizing and producing environmentally sound renewable energy resources, such as solar, wind, geothermal, hydropower and biomass, including woodfuel resources;

(ix) To develop sustainable energy policies in order to improve energy efficiency by:

a. Formulating, in cooperation with the private sector, appropriate objectives or policies relating to energy production and consumption;

b. Promoting application of economic instruments, with a view to taking into account environmental and other social costs while encouraging greater efficiency;

c. Building capacity for energy planning and programme management in energy efficiency, including the introduction, development and management of new and renewable sources of energy;

(x) To strengthen existing and/or set new energy efficiency and emission standards or recommendations on specific technologies, as appropriate. Countries may wish to coordinate these standards at regional or subregional levels. Such standards should provide ongoing incentives for more efficient and less polluting energy use, with special attention being paid to the promotion of the development and use of alternative and less polluting technologies;

(xi) To encourage education and awareness-raising programmes at the local, national, subregional and regional levels concerning energy efficiency and environmentally sound energy systems;

(xii) To establish or enhance, as appropriate, in cooperation with the private sector, labelling programmes for products to provide decision makers and consumers with information on opportunities for energy efficiency.

(b) Transportation (para. 12 (a) to (d))

(i) To develop and promote more efficient and less polluting transport systems, particularly integrated rural and urban mass transit;

(ii) To facilitate the transfer of safe, energy-efficient and less polluting transport technologies to developing countries, including appropriate training programmes;

(iii) To strengthen efforts at collecting, analysing and exchanging relevant information on the relation between environment and transport, with particular attention given to systematic observation of emissions and to the development of a transport database;

(iv) To aim at enhancing and developing environmentally sustainable transportation systems, evaluate and, as appropriate, promote economic mechanisms, including pricing, which, inter alia, seek to discourage large, fuel-consuming and polluting vehicles, and encourage the development and use of alternative fuels.

(c) Industrial development (para. 15 (a) to (c))

(i) To encourage industry to increase and strengthen its capacity to develop products and processes that are more energy-efficient, safe and environmentally sound;

(ii) To develop, improve and apply environmental impact assessments to foster sustainable industrial development;

(iii) To support initiatives promoting clean and more efficient technologies and processes in industries with a view to limiting industrial pollution.

(d) Transboundary atmospheric pollution (para. 25 (a) and (d))

(i) To establish and/or strengthen regional agreements for transboundary air pollution control and cooperate in the areas of systematic observation and assessment, modelling and the development and exchange of emission control technologies of sources of air pollution. Greater emphasis should be put on addressing the extent, causes, health and socio-economic impacts of ultraviolet radiation, acidification of the environment and photo-oxidant damage to forests and other vegetation;

(ii) To cooperate on regional, multilateral and bilateral bases to assess transboundary air pollution, and elaborate and implement programmes identifying specific actions to reduce atmospheric emissions and to address their environmental, economic, social and other effects.

B. Draft provisional agenda and documentation for the first session of the Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and on Energy for Development

1. Election of officers.

2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.

3. Implementation of the Nairobi Programme of Action for the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy. This may include the following topics:

(a) Monitoring the implementation of the Nairobi Programme of Action and the activities of the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system in the field of new and renewable sources of energy;

(b) Recommendation of policy guidelines for different organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system with regard to new and renewable sources of energy on the basis of the Nairobi Programme of Action;

(c) Formulation and recommendations of action-oriented plans and programmes for carrying out the Nairobi Programme of Action in accordance with priorities identified therein;

(d) Inter-agency coordination for the implementation of the Nairobi Programme of Action;

(e) Promotion of the mobilization of financial resources required in the implementation of the Nairobi Programme of Action.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on new technological developments, techniques and strategies for identifying, locating and evaluating new and renewable sources of energy, taking into account environmental considerations

Report of the Secretary-General on experiences gained worldwide in implementing new and renewable sources of energy, as well as proposals for effective energy policies, compatible with sustainable development

4. Energy for development. Discussions to include the following topics:

(a) Assessment and development of petroleum, natural gas and coal resources;

(b) Facilitation of the transfer of environmentally sound technologies for energy production, conversion and consumption;

(c) Rehabilitation and modernization of power systems, including power system loss reduction programmes;

(d) Issues involved in institutional strengthening, capacity-building and training;

(e) Securing adequate levels of financing for capital-intensive energy projects.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on trends and salient issues in energy resources (Economic and Social Council resolution 1991/86, para. 6)

Report of the Secretary-General on human resources development in the field of energy (Council resolution 1991/86, para. 8)

Report of the Secretary-General on issues in the transfer of clean coal technologies to developing countries

Report of the Secretary-General on ways and means by which the energy policy objectives proposed by the World Bank to the developing countries and the policies and objectives contained in the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade could correspond (Council resolution 1991/86, para. 7)

5. Implementation of Agenda 21 with regard to the development, conversion and use of energy, including new and renewable sources, in relation to environment and sustainable development. Discussions to include the following topics:

(a) Promoting the transfer, development and use of energy-efficient technologies;

(b) Optimization of energy supply and conversion activities in order to minimize environmental impacts;

(c) Promoting the rational use of energy through the practice of energy demand management.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on means to promote and implement energy efficiency in the productive sector in developing countries, focusing on governmental policies, legislation, capacity-building, private sector economic incentive programmes, energy audit programmes, and issues in the transfer of energy-efficient technologies

Report of the Secretary-General on issues relating to energy, environment and sustainable development

Report of the Secretary-General on the nature, status and prospects of applications of mature renewable sources of energy technologies, with special emphasis on developing countries, for an environmentally sound energy mix

6. Medium-term planning in the field of development and utilization of new and renewable sources of energy, energy for development and sections in Agenda 21 relating to energy, environment and sustainable development.

7. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its first session.

C. Summary of documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on new technological developments, techniques and strategies for identifying, locating and evaluating new and renewable sources of energy, taking into account environmental considerations

Report of the Secretary-General on experiences gained worldwide in implementing new and renewable sources of energy, as well as proposals for effective energy policies, compatible with sustainable development

Report of the Secretary-General on trends and salient issues in energy resources (Council resolution 1991/86, para. 6)

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Report of the Secretary-General on issues relating to energy, environment and sustainable development

Report of the Secretary-General on the nature, status and prospects of applications of mature renewable energy technologies, with special emphasis on developing countries, for an environmentally sound energy mix

Notes

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 37 (A/35/37), part two, annex.

2/ Ibid., Forty-sixth session, Supplement No. 37 (A/46/37).

3/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development, Vienna, 20-31 August 1979 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.79.I.21 and Corr. 1 and 2), chap. VII.

4/ Report of the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy, Nairobi, 10-21 August 1981 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.81.I.24), chap. I, sect. A.

5/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 47 (A/37/47) and Corr.1).

6/ Economic and Social Council resolution 1218 (XLII) of 1 June 1967; see also Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, Forty-second Session, Annexes, agenda item 3, document E/4302.